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MODESTO MAN GIVEN 17 ½ YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR DISTRIBUTING AND POSSESSING IMAGES OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Prison Term to be Followed by 15 years of Supervised Release

FRESNO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MATIAS JOSE SALVATIERRA, 39, of Modesto, California was sentenced by United States District Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill to a prison term of 210 months (17 ½ years) for one count each of distribution and possession of visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. His term of imprisonment will be followed by a term of supervised release of 180 months (15 years) during which he will be required to register as a sex offender, and his access to children, computers, and the internet will be restricted.

In sentencing SALVATIERRA, the court described as "beyond awful" some of the images involved in the case, and opined that the defendant had an "insatiable sexual appetite for children," and that he presented an "extreme danger" to them.

The case began in July 2005 when investigators with the Modesto Police Department received information from the Redlands, California Police Department that someone, subsequently identified as SALVATIERRA, had sent images of child pornography to a person in Redlands. When Modesto Police detectives executed a search warrant at SALVATIERRA's residence in Modesto, they recovered a computer and approximately 300 compact discs that contained child pornography. At the time of his arrest, SALVATIERRA referred to his collection of illegal images as his "artwork." Based on a forensic review of SALVATIERRA'S computer, investigators were able to identify several other individuals to whom SALVATIERRA had distributed images of child pornography. Among those prosecuted in Fresno were DAVID DEWAYNE PRINCE, 46, formerly of Bakersfield, California, who received a 78-month prison term on May 26, 2006, for possession of child pornography and KENNETH J. HIBBARD, 39, formerly of Redlands, California, who received a 96-month prison term on February 27, 2006, for receipt of child pornography. ROBERT F. LOGAN, 43, formerly of Renton, Washington, pleaded guilty on December 18, 2006, to receipt of images of child pornography from SALVATIERRA and was sentenced to a 121-month prison term on February 26, 2007.

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, SALVATIERRA admitted that from approximately July 2003 through July 5, 2005, he used a computer and modem to distribute and receive, by use of the Internet, visual depictions of the sexual exploitation of minors. The distribution involved material depicting prepubescent minors as well as images of minors engaged in sadistic or masochistic conduct or other violence. Evidence introduced at sentencing revealed that SALVATIERRA amassed a collection of approximately 166,000 images of child pornography in still and video formats. The court likened him to a "librarian" who organized a collection "beyond belief."

SALVATIERRA has been detained in federal custody, as both a danger to the community and a risk of flight, since his arrest on July 5, 2005.

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